

ARIZONA HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

Application for Arizona Centennial 2012 Legacy Project Designation

AHAC Mission: Develop, encourage and coordinate a statewide plan for Arizona's centennial in 2012 including advising the legislature and state agencies on centennial history and heritage, arts and culture, assisting the governor's countdown to the centennial to support school children learning about Arizona's history and recommending activities and projects that will ensure lasting accomplishments to commemorate the centennial.

Vision for Centennial Projects: Commemorations that encourage all Arizonans to reflect on our unique and authentic history, to experience the rich and diverse tapestry of our heritage, and to explore our promising futures, thus ensuring a lasting legacy.

Legacy Project Criteria: This is a request for official designation as an Arizona Centennial Legacy Project. To be considered, the project must 1) accurately portray a significant aspect of Arizona history; 2) be accessible to large number of visitors/users; 3) demonstrate collaboration in the planning; 4) produce an enduring product that will live on after 2012; 5) include an educational component; 6) include a plan for implementation.

Attach a maximum of three pages that address the following areas, in the order listed:

1. General description of the project.
2. Describe how this project meets the Legacy Project criteria.
3. Project timeline. Give details regarding planning and implementation.
4. Describe the project location.
5. List project partners, if applicable.
6. Attach a proposed budget, showing total project cost and funding sources.
7. Please also provide letters of support from project partners and sponsors.

These are in addition to the three-page maximum.

Name of project: Early Danish Pioneers

Applicant: Avis E. Jorgenson Ed.D. + Mary P. Cole

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Avis E. Jorgenson, Ed.D.
Signature (authorizing official)

October 3, 2008
Date

Mary - P. Cole



Sgt. John A. Smith, Troop D., 6th U.S. Cavalry, 1885
Awarded a peace medal in 1881
John A. Smith was a Dane

To ensure that Arizona's history and culture are represented adequately, accurately and appropriately, Mary Cole and Avis Jorgenson are researching the early Danish pioneers who immigrated to the New Mexico/Arizona Territory prior to statehood in 1912. Media does not reflect all Europeans arriving in this territory, before or after the railroad came to Tucson March 20, 1880. Our findings have uncovered many Danes, mostly men but some women, which the census lists only "wife of, from Denmark." We are attempting to identify these persons and record their histories, noting those who attained prominence in their field of endeavor.

Those Danes that we are able to identify, will have their stories told, their outstanding accomplishments recounted with their family profiles noted. We will record their family members who have remained in the southern Arizona area. All this information with pictures will be published in a hard-cover history book for children and adults to learn of the contributions of the early Danish pioneers. The book will be available to historical societies and institutions of learning and to students for research and study.

Since Mary Cole and I are both retired professionals on fixed incomes, we would be most appreciative of receiving funds to assist us with this project. In Fall of 2007, we began our project when Avis Jorgenson proposed the plan to Mary Cole, who began researching at the LDS Family History Center in Tucson. Early census records lists country of origin, so we were able to specifically identify the Danes. Since obtaining the names from the census, our search has led to the following sources:

- Arizona Historical Society Library, Tucson, AZ
- National Personnel Record Center: Military Personnel Records in St. Louis, MO.
- National Archives & Records Administration, Washington, DC.
- Arizona State Museum Library, Tucson, AZ

- Arizona Military Museum, Phoenix, AZ
- Arizona Railroad Museum, Tucson, AZ
- Department of Mines & Mineral Resources, Phoenix, AZ
- Postal History Foundation, Tucson, AZ
- AZ State Museum Office of Ethnohistorical Research Documentary Relation of the SW.
- University of Arizona: Special collections Library, Tucson, AZ
- Pima Recorder's Office, Tucson, AZ
- Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, Tucson, AZ

In addition, we will be traveling to research at the outlying museums and county records in:

- Nogales, AZ
- Tombstone, AZ
- Bisbee, AZ
- Yuma, AZ
- Florence, AZ
- Douglas, AZ
- Bowie, AZ
- Ft. Huachuca, AZ
- Benson, AZ
- Wilcox, AZ
- Tubac, AZ
- Safford, AZ

Many of these early Danish pioneers became an integral part of the Territory with its diverse communities. They were committed to the development and investment in Arizona's future, contributed to its economic growth and were successful business people building a future that connected to the world outside Arizona.

Those identified so far, were in many occupations: 14 were military, six worked on the rail-road, two were cooks, one was a logger, 16 were farmers, one became a nationally famous artist, 40 were miners, 26 were merchants or owned businesses, six became city officials and 28 were laborers (more women were listed in this category). Two of our military men served in the Civil War, one served in the Mexican War and was the oldest living military veteran in the United States when he died March 8, 1906. Some of the accounts of skirmishes with Indians are written in pidgin English. These will be included in toto. Our intention is to honor their service to our country and commemorate their heroic deeds in a book that will have vignettes of all our Danes. These were among the first European emigrants to come to this territory and it should be noted that their sacrifices may be held in perpetuity.

Included in our book will be as many pictures of early Danish pioneers as we are able to find. Any related photos will also be included. Copyrights will always have consideration and acceptance will be requested from those holding the copyrights. In embracing the past, we will visit cemeteries to find the grave markers of our subjects.

TIME LINE

FALL 2007 - Research census records identifying early Danish pioneers.

SPRING 2008 - Research moves to libraries and museums

FALL 2008 - Research extends to outlying southern Arizona museums and county records.

SPRING 2009 - Research ends at Arizona Library Archives and Public Records, Phoenix.

FALL 2009 - Writing and search for a publisher

SPRING 2010 - Book published, publicity campaign for distribution begins.

FALL 2010 - Distribution of book and presentations made to interested groups.

We intend our project to be a thought-provoking document that embraces the early Arizona Territorial history reflecting the effect of the arrival of a seldom mentioned group of Euro-Americans who assisted in establishing outposts for the future arrival of families. We have found that, contrary to their cold, native country of Denmark, these Danish newcomers looked upon the verdant Sonoran Desert, its rivers running with clear water, as their home. After the railroads were completed on March 20, 1880, families came, the census naming all members of the family. We will try to trace the off-spring of these brave pioneers, to note the traditional and long-standing effect of the Danish pioneers on Arizona's early history.

EARLY DANISH PIONEER PROJECT ESTIMATED BUDGET

TRAVEL TO OUTLYING MUSEUMS AND COUNTY COURTHOUSES:

Mileage -	\$1,755.	(3,000 mi. x \$.855 per mi.)
Hotels -	500.	
Meals -	300.	
Museum Charges -	200.	
Parking Fees -	75.	

Sub-total \$ 2,830.

OFFICE SUPPLIES:

Copying -	150.
Faxing -	10.
Paper -	80.
Ink Jets -	200.
Postage -	25.

Sub-total \$ 560.

MISCELLANEOUS:

In-service time - 2 persons/ 3days per week/ 48 weeks per year/ 4 years	
Copyright fees -	200.
Searching fees -	400.
Publishing costs -	25,000.

Sub-total \$25,600.

Grand total \$ 28,990.